

Volume 12, No. 06 • February 4, 2005

Nation

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Editorial Sovereignty

by Will Nicholls



Guy Caballero, the fictional president of the SCTV television network, once said that the business of a TV news team wasn't to give people what they needed but to convince them that what they wanted was what you were giving them. At the time I thought it was a pretty callous outlook. But now, looking at the control of most media outlets by extreme right-ring interests (for the most part) in Canada and elsewhere, his words are no longer that funny. In fact, they're pretty much true.

Fortunately, his words don't always apply to many of the independently owned community newspapers across Canada. Our small outfits are hardly noticed by the corporate giants as our profit margins aren't even pocket change to them.

As a result it can give us more leeway in what we do. For instance, in this issue you will notice that Neil Diamond has the last line. Yes, Niles the human blender (just add words and hit "purée") is back with a new column. And he doesn't want to be confused with Sonny Orr, who took over the Rez Notes column from Neil so many years ago that some people simply assumed Sonny Orr was just a pseudonym for Mr. Diamond. Albeit with far less hair.

Some people from the past might think of Neil's humour as biting and cutting edge. Others will simply hate his guts and think about reviving the ancient Aztec ritual of sacrificing his still-beating heart to a now-forgotten war god. In other words, he is controversial and – love him or hate him – will make you think.

As a result, our lawyers have asked me to tell you that Neil's opinion does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Nation, its employees or any pets they may care for. This is the standard disclaimer most ambulance chasers will have you take for your own protection. I may have been charged \$275 for this information freely available elsewhere. I will find out next month, but in the meantime all of you should be careful about talking to any lawyer. Apparently that friendly chat at the bar can be billable hours even if he is only pretending to laugh at your pitiful attempts at humour. Heck, even we'd be willing to do that for \$350 an hour.

For all of you who enjoy the "Pulse of the Nation," thanks for comments. We've gotten some great feedback from the website (beesum-communications.com and click on the Nation cover to the left side).

One thing, however: When you are writing us via the Internet, please indicate in the email if you do not want the feedback to appear in the Nation. Otherwise we'll assume that it's printable. Remember that it will be treated like any letter to the editor we regularly publish in the Nation. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length. We also reserve the right not to print a letter because of possible legal complications, including libel. Include a phone number if you don't mind us harassing you at all hours of the night. We work a 24-hour schedule here on Boulevard St-Laurent, where the fun never stops.

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Ice Fishing in Iyiyuuschii

Photos: W. Nicholls

Design: M. Lavolette



Get on the bus, Gus

Sonny Orr



Before Eeyouch could afford even a grungy Suburban, public bus transportation was the only way for people in those communities connected by road. Experiences that reflect that era come to mind as I ready myself for the chiropractically challenging and gruelling haul from Montreal to Val d'Or on the red-eye express. Memories are permanently burnt into my cranium, like coming off a long haul bus smelling like the guy next to you and talking his slang just to get him to understand you for the last 12 hours. Or the intimate closeness that made one form friendships that you knew would never last beyond the next stop.

Midnight expresses from night to early morn would create a pheromone bond amongst most passengers, but I've witnessed and avoided those who would walk on with a two-four and a loud voice, stirring fear in the few who occupied only one seat and kindly referring him to the back seat near the muffled roar of 350 diesel horses. His presence created near havoc with those who dared go to the toilet, making everyone slightly squeamish after a few hours of jostling in the non-air conditioned coach.

He was Gus, the guy you somehow were afraid to know. Other types of passengers, on the other side of the rainbow, would suavely and wisely choose the seat next to the prettiest girl and convince her that he was doing research for a big time movie, where they required extras with her type of appeal to sit in the background. Of course, he wasn't the director, but did have the right to induce a "cut" if his young acting protégé missed a hidden cue.

Then there are the grannies, who somehow control all aspects and attentions of the driver, usually taking the seat within shoulder tapping dis-

tance. The matriarch of the bus, while nodding off, would allow the now sedated rowdy Gus and his party to come to reason and the lull and droning of the tires would transform half the people into sitting contortionists with the ability to balance their tired heads at 120 kilometres per hour.

The bus driver, midway through the darkness, would inexplicably slow to a halt without reason and stop. I've seen these types of occasions on a few bus runs, and could never, ever figure the reason for the stops as I would see nothing that would indicate a purpose. Many years later I realized that not stopping could mean crashing into an oncoming train. So much for road awareness.

Of course, there are always the bus stop breaks or bus changes, where 48 people would eat and cram down food a-la-mode. Often a seedy bar, which could intoxify an entire bus-load of hockey players in half an hour, would supply a quick fix for the needy. Back in the day, smoking was allowed on the coach, until it was allowed only in the back rows, and then eventually completely phased out when tobacco became known for its side effects.

Eeyouch, back when the bus was the only affordable link next to the train, would often be picked up wayside, their tree-blanketed cabins barely visible from the road. More often than not they were a regular ticket whom the driver knew well. Today, most people drive their own vehicles to get around, but a few communities own long haulers that are draped with comfortable amenities, designed from experience earned from many a hockey tourney or group vacation. Public transportation has now long since become the practical and economical mode of transport for guys like me, and I hope that I never, ever have to meet a chiropractor as a result.

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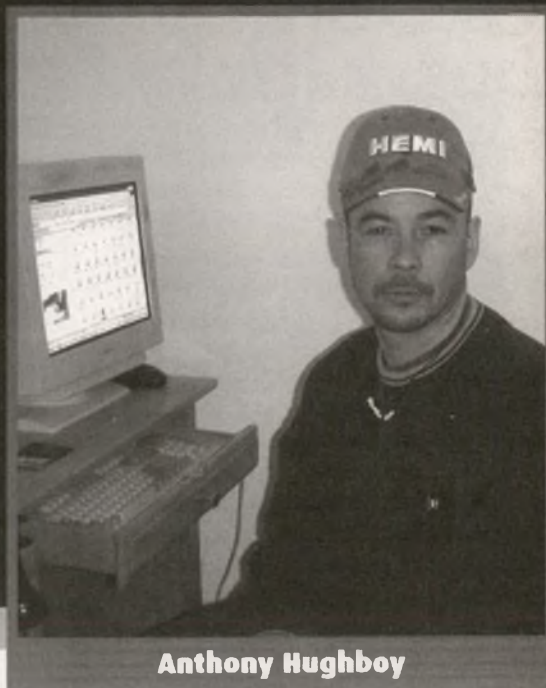
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Canada

OUJE-BOUGOUMOU'S POLITICAL RULES CHALLENGED

Conflicts between Traditional Law and Election Codes leave Oj resident fuming

By Steve Bonspiel



Anthony Hughboy

photo courtesy of Cynthia Wapachee

Anthony Hughboy has a valid point, the Cree-Naskapi Commission has ruled, when he says Ouje-Bougoumou's election and membership laws are applied inconsistently. However, in a report issued November 23, the Commission says only the courts can settle the issue.

The problem lies in the fact that Hughboy, who only became a member of the band on January 18 this year, was told he could not run as band councillor in the 2003 election because he hadn't officially transferred his membership from Wemindji. Yet Gaston Cooper, who was elected to band council in 2002, had also not transferred his band number to OJ and Cooper was still allowed to run, and win.

"In the past I got nominated as a councillor and there wasn't a problem," said Hughboy. "I didn't run in the 2002 election, but an elder nominated me in July 2003 for a seat that was left vacant by a councillor who had departed. That's when I was informed that I wasn't a member of OJ."

Hughboy says he can't understand why Cooper was allowed to serve on council while he is not. "I don't know what kind of list they were using," said Hughboy. "I have nothing against Mr. Cooper personally; I

just think that the policies in Ouje-Bougoumou should be clear."

Hughboy asked the Cree-Naskapi Commission to do some research on the matter. Their findings, as taken from their report, are as follows:

Based on the review of the facts as described in the present report, the commission concludes that the individual concerned, (Gaston Cooper) presently, does not appear to be an elector of the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation and therefore should not have been accepted as a candidate for the office of council member of the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation in the general election held on August 11, 2003.

However, only a court of law can determine the definite status of the individual concerned as an elector of the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation and the validity of the election of the individual concerned as a member of the Council of the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree Nation.

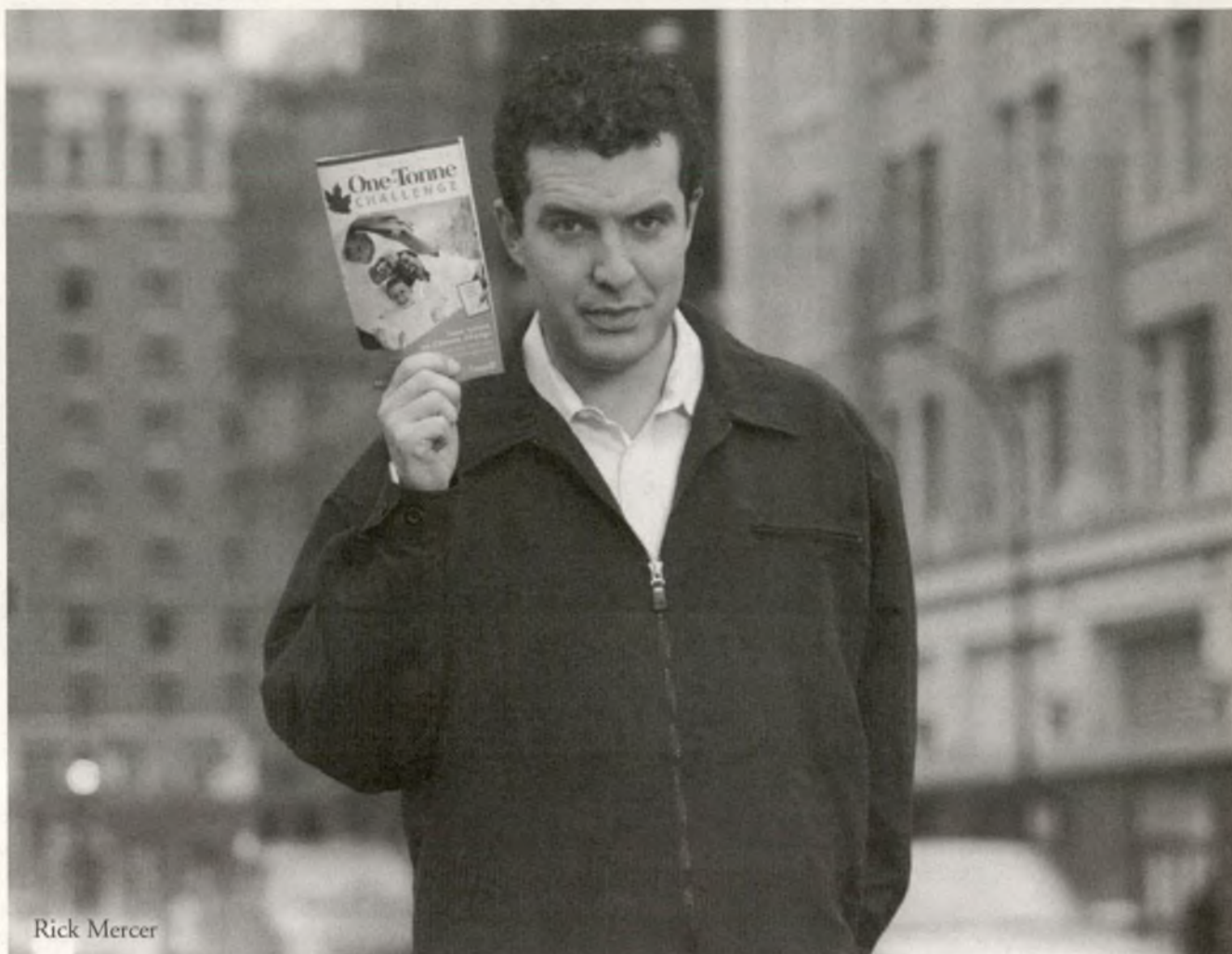
"What kind of a role are the Chief and Council playing by not resolving the problem," Hughboy fumed. "They never bothered to

resolve it. They're just simply hoping it's going to go away."

When asked what should be done, Hughboy replied, "Not really change the election code, but follow what it

I have nothing against
Mr. Cooper personally;
I just think that
the policies in
Ouje-Bougoumou
should be clear.

continued on page 7



Rick Mercer

Every Canadian loves a challenge, right?

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continued from page 5

says. If in order for you to run you have to be what it says, and if you're not, then you're not."

Sophie Bosum, the Deputy Chief of Ouje-Bougoumou, says she wrote a letter to Hughboy saying the council would study the issue, not only concerning the Cree-Naskapi Act but also OJ bylaws.

Bosum said she checked with the band's lawyers for a legal opinion, and was supposed to receive word by December 15 via email. Bosum claims computer problems have prevented the arrival of the email as of late January.

"We have a law that governs us, but we're still not part of the Cree-Naskapi Act and are not a recognized band yet, so we have our own election by-laws which we try to follow," she chuckled. "But I guess some people aren't happy. Mr. Hughboy was talking about contesting it during the election. He had 10 days to file a protest, but did not do so."

She also pointed out that because of OJ's unique status, they sometimes go by Cree Traditional Law.

Cree Traditional Law is an unwritten code that enables an individual to run for office after living in the community for a long time (how much time is open to interpretation), while their transfer from one band to another is still pending.

"When a member has lived in our community for so many years and is a part of our community...we felt that's how we should look at it for now," Bosum stated.

But Hughboy believes the band council has blacklisted him. If the traditional law applied to Cooper, it should have applied to him as well, he said. He wondered aloud if his outspoken ideals on where the band should spend their money affected his eligibility.

"In the general assembly last fall, I brought up some of the expenses by the council members such as bringing

their spouse, all expenses paid, on business trips," he observed. "We managed to pass a resolution with the people that were in the meeting, but nothing was ever done about it.

A lot of money is spent on these trips, he says, when the band council could be having the meetings in OJ. "They were supposed to decide if these guys were going to continue to

For me this is a non-issue.
I've done a lot for
the community and the
community has done
a lot for me –
Cooper

go to Montreal and Osprey."

Gaston Cooper, meanwhile, thinks Hughboy is just causing trouble.

"When I was first nominated as councillor [in August 2002], there was already a question as to my eligibility," said Cooper, who admits to only getting his OJ band number after the election. "It was brought up at the nomination meeting, but according to Cree Traditional Law, I was eligible."

Cooper's application for band membership took 10 years to be completed. "It wasn't my fault that it took so long," he said.

Cooper also says people's living situations in an unorganized band area lead to informal political status. "When I was a boy I lived in Chapais in a tent frame. That's where I was raised. We lived alongside the people of OJ before they had a community. When I had my first child with my wife, who is an Ouje-Bougoumou band member, that's when I decided to officially change over."

He figured that he was already a

member when his name was included in the 1992 Canada-Ouje-Bougoumou Agreement. It states to the government that he was going to stay in OJ once a land base had been formed.

Regardless of how he became a member, he says, he is one now and he just wants to put this behind him.

"For me this is a non-issue. I've done a lot for the community and the community has done a lot for me. No one talks about it except for Mr. Hughboy. None of the Elders or any of my colleagues have ever questioned my candidacy, it's just this one person."

For Hughboy, however, the election question is only part of the problem. A few years ago Hughboy and his wife were trying to open up a sporting goods store and they were refused funding from Eenou Companee. It was only after Hughboy's name was taken off the application that they were able to start up the store.

Everything was approved in principle, said Hughboy, but when it came to get the money from the band's Socio-Economic Development Program (SEDP), he was refused because he wasn't an Ouje-Bougoumou member.

"I couldn't understand why I wasn't able to get the funding, yet before that Gaston had established Cooper Digital [his photography company] and he got the funding from SEDP," said Hughboy.

Cooper would only say that because his name appears on the 1992 agreement, he was entitled to funding as an Ouje-Bougoumou member.

"Me and Gaston were in the same boat, but this guy seemed to be getting on the boat left and right," Hughboy said.

After his family took over the sporting goods company, Hughboy and his wife purchased a cable company in December 2004. Once again, he had to put it under his wife's name in order to secure Eenou Companee funding.

Eastmain-1-A and Rupert Diversion Project

PUBLIC NOTICE

The review committee (COMEX) and the federal review panel announce the beginning of the public consultation on the conformity of the impact statement filed by the proponents, Hydro-Québec and its subsidiary, the *Société d'énergie de la Baie James*. This consultation gives the public an opportunity to present its views to the review bodies regarding the proponents' response to the directives submitted to them for the preparation of the impact statement.

The public is invited to submit written comments by mail, fax or e-mail. Comments must be received by the secretariat of one of the review bodies or by the Public Information Office no later than midnight on the last day of the public consultation. The addresses are indicated below for your reference. As of January 31, 2005, the public will have 90 days to examine the impact statement and submit comments to the review bodies. The public consultation period will therefore end on April 30, 2005.

Interested parties are encouraged to consult the operational procedures for the review of the project, published on December 10, 2004, to find out about the review process and the details regarding the public consultation on the conformity of the impact statement. Locations for consulting this document are presented below.

For information concerning the review:

For the federal review panel:
Jean Crépault, Panel Manager
Place Bell Canada, 22nd Floor
160 Elgin Street, Ottawa ON K1A 0H3
Tel.: (613) 957-0351 Fax: (613) 957-0941
crepault@em1a-review.ca

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Tel.: (418) 521-3933, Ext. 7255
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michael.oneill@menv.gouv.qc.ca

Locations where the public registry may be consulted:

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Montréal QC H3C 2M2
Tel.: (514) 871-8378
Tel.: (877) 880-8378 (toll free)
www.bip-pio.qc.ca

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Place Bell Canada, 22nd Floor
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3
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Locations where the impact statement may be consulted¹:

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¹ The supporting documentation is only available in locations indicated by an asterisk

Mistissini resident sentenced in sexual assault

After pleading guilty June 17 to one count of sexual assault, 37-year-old Mistissini resident Daniel Beauclaire has been sentenced to 10 months for sexual offences against a minor.

The incident took place April 29 at Kilometre 391 on Route 167 Nord near the Metawashish River.

He was originally charged with two counts, one count of "inviting, counseling or inciting a person under the age of 14 to sexually touch him," and another count of "touching a person under the age of 14 in a sexual manner."

He pled guilty in Roberval court on December 7 to the first count while the second one was dropped.

After his sentence is completed, he will remain on probation for three years with conditions that he not be in the presence of alcohol, not be in the presence of minors without the presence of a competent adult, and that he cannot possess firearms.

Chisasibi woman takes own life

A 21-year-old Chisasibi woman attending Eastmain's Childcare Educator Course has committed suicide.

Bernadette House was found in the basement of an Eastmain home by the woman she was staying with, according to Eastmain Senior Officer Oliver Moses. He is the police officer who responded to the call.

A nurse arrived at the scene to try to revive the victim, who had no vital signs. The nurse attempted CPR for about half an hour, to no avail. House was pronounced dead at 2 am on January 16.

Moses, who has been on the force for 18 years, said he feels sympathy for

the family.

"It's really sad to see somebody die, especially to see his or her loved ones hurt," he said.

In order to defuse possible copycat suicide attempts, the police have visited the school to reassure kids that suicide is not the way to deal with one's problems.

Waswanipi group calls for early election

A group of 10 angry Waswanipi residents have signed a petition calling for early band council elections. The petition was presented to the Waswanipi Returning Officer January 14.

According to John Jolly, the Assistant Returning Officer, 10 is enough. "It states in Waswanipi's by-law that the number of signatures needed in a case like this is 10," Jolly said.

Although they did not list their complaints, the people, who don't want to be identified, were calling for a Special General Assembly to voice their concerns.

Because of that, the Chief and Council have announced that there will be a meeting on February 4 to address the petition.

The Nation got in touch with one of those people who signed. "The people are afraid because of the way things are being handled," said the source, who wishes to remain nameless. "There is so much financial strain on the community because of mismanagement by the band that people are getting laid off by the band council," the person said.

"The reason I signed it is because there are so many unanswered questions that the people have. I've tried at general assemblies, but [Chief Kitchen] doesn't answer to the people."

The anonymous source went on to say that things like garbage pickup and snow removal are inconsistent at best.

And that in order to get their trash picked up, they have to call the council before it overflows into the street. They see this as another sign that things have to change.

"They will need at least 50 per cent of eligible voters to attend the meeting to have a quorum, which represents about 300 people," said Jolly. "They will have to discuss the matter of whether they want to have early elections or not."

Flora Blacksmith, Deputy Chief of Waswanipi, would not address the issue. "We're not in a position to comment on that right now," she said. "Not all the councilors have seen it yet."

The next Waswanipi election is scheduled for August 2006.

After school child-care service kicks off

Busy working parents who can't always pick up their children after school will soon be able to take advantage of a new After School Day Care Program.

The Cree School Board (CSB) held a ceremonial signing in Mistissini January 19 to launch the service with the Cree Regional Authority (CRA) and the Quebec Ministry of Education.

The program, which is available to every school board in Quebec, was set up to ensure the safety of the children, to make sure they aren't home alone and to take a little stress from their parents' shoulders.

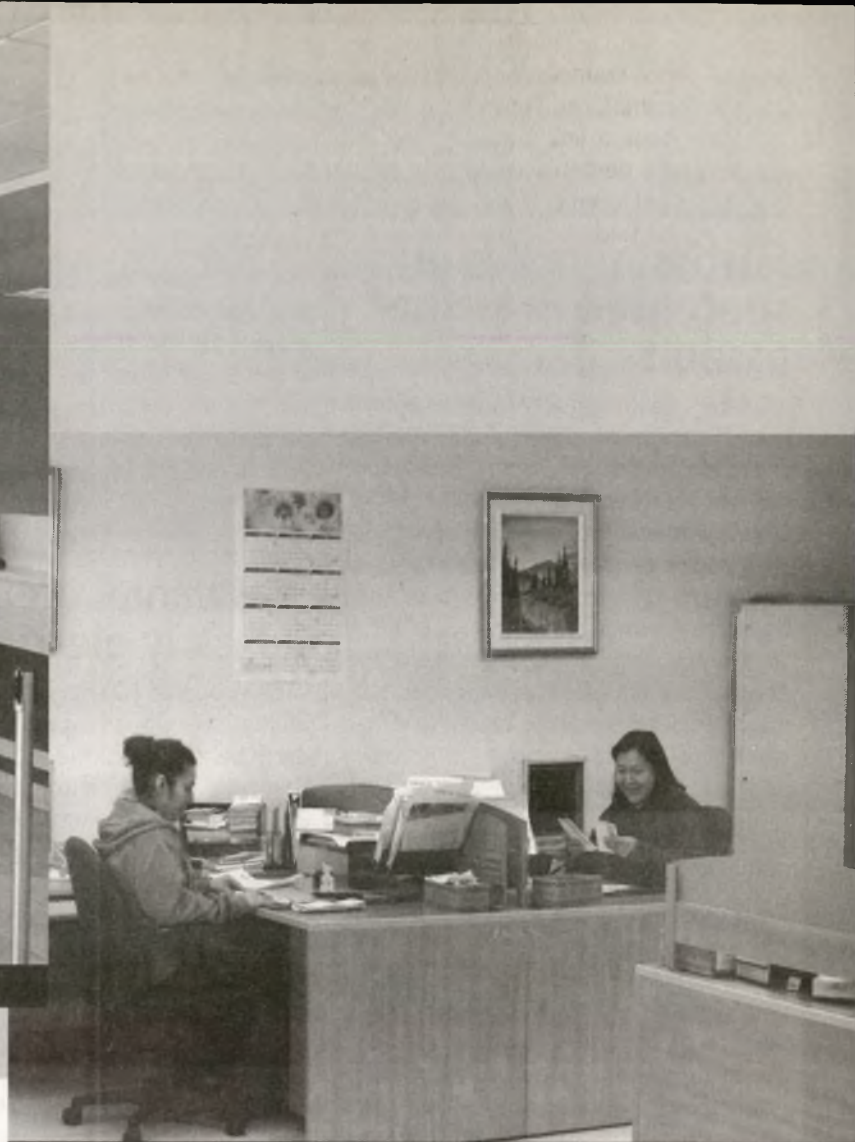
Daycare educators will come into the school in the morning, during lunch and after school to monitor the students in Grades 1 to 6 who are signed up for the program.

"The After School Day Care Program was an item that was on my platform when I ran for the chairmanship of the Cree School Board," said William Mianscum, who was elected CSB Chairman in August 2003.

continued on page 23



Clients at Mistissini Caisse Populaire



Janice Longchap and Lizzie Husky having a laugh

CAISSE DESJARDINS BANKS ON CLOSER TIES WITH CREES

By Claire MacKinnon Photos by M. Paul-Yvon Pichette

The Federation des Caisses Desjardins pledges increased service for the Cree throughout Eeyou Istchee.

Through increased consultation with band councils, the federation wants to create programs and services that will contribute to the economic development of the Cree Nation, said Caisse spokesman Yves Poirier. "I am ready to listen to the needs of the Chiefs and other Cree business and society leaders," he said.

One of the main programs shows primary school students how to save money. Proven successful elsewhere in Quebec, a small "caisse scolaire" is set up at the school.

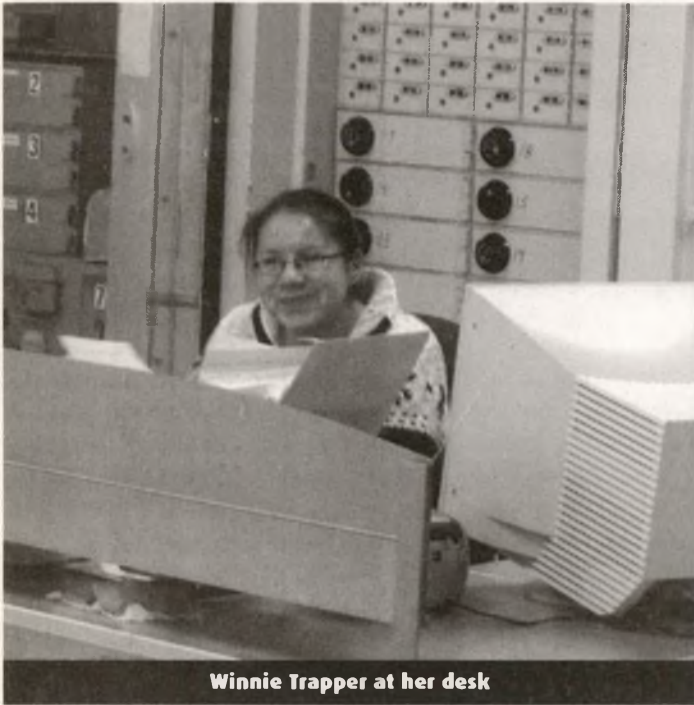
Students are encouraged to open a savings account, one that has no service charges and a higher interest rate than regular accounts.

The program teaches young students how to save and manage their money, independently from their parents, said Poirier. "Even putting aside 25 cents per month can help a child learn how to save."

Poirier, who is Senior Manager, First Nations at Desjardins, is part of a team of experts established to provide financial services and support for First Nations groups across Quebec through its network of Caisses and corporate financial centres. The specialists are there to help busi-

nesses, band councils and individuals get loans, a high demand for the Cree Nation.

Poirier sees a link between the function of the *caisse scolaire* and a person's ability to get credit. "It can be more difficult to get credit, if a person has never had savings in their life," he said.



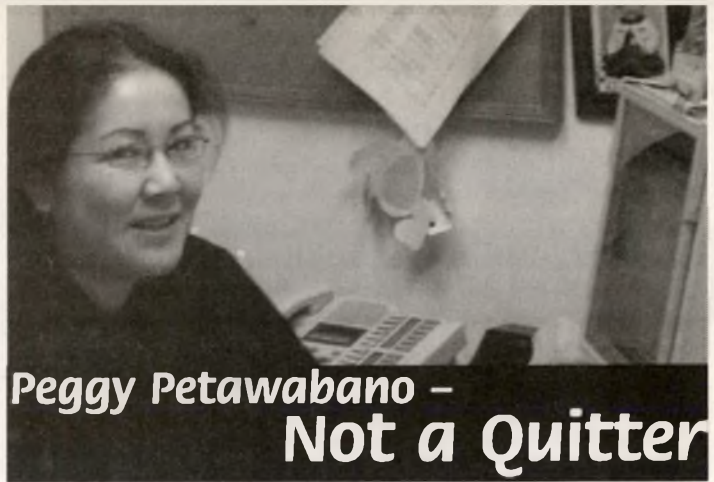
Winnie Trapper at her desk

Caisse Desjardins also plans to consult with individual band councils in order to set up retirement savings plans. Together, the Caisse and band councils could establish collective savings for communities, such as stock exchange term deposits, said Poirier, "which could have a higher return than short-term deposits."

With branches in Mistissini and Waswanipi since the early 1980s, the Federation des Caisses Desjardins has already made its presence known in the region. A cooperative, Desjardins involves its clients directly in its administration. When individuals open an account they immediately become members in the cooperative. Members elect the board of directors at each branch, and the board, in turn, determines policy and appoints a general manager. Both the Mistissini and Waswanipi board of directors and employees are 100 per cent Cree, with the exception of general managers.



Lake Mistissini Caisse Populaire



Peggy Petawabano – Not a Quitter

By Claire MacKinnon • Photo by M. Paul-Yvon Pichette

Peggy Petawabano has had a busy day. She says she is "the ear that listens for problems."

Petawabano supervises employees at the Mistissini Caisse Populaire, the same job her sister, Karen, worked at for 12 years. She has been Interim Team Leader since last October, although she has been working there for seven years. The work is challenging, but Petawabano welcomes the job, saying she was "lucky" to get it.

Petawabano's permanent job at the Caisse is in Technical Support, but she originally started as a teller. She upgraded to her Secondary IV, but otherwise had no previous training or experience before starting at the Caisse. "It helped that I spoke French," she said. Not many others at the Caisse spoke French at the time.

When Petawabano became a Technical Support Agent, she completed several computer training courses in Amos, each one lasting for three days. She learns the latest versions of various computer systems used at the Caisse so she can keep up with the ever-changing world of computer software.

"At times it was difficult," she said about the training, but she never felt like quitting.

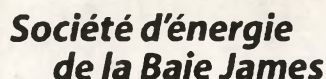
Petawabano's willpower also helped her save for her down payment on her mortgage. "I was determined to get a house," she said. "The money from the reserve was also a big plus." Petawabano is talking about the housing grant she received through the band council, through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Petawabano says she loves working with her co-workers at the Caisse. "Most of us get along," she said. "We don't have any problems." The ladies have a good connection and sometimes go out for breakfast together at the Mistissini Lodge.

Petawabano estimates that 70 per cent of Mistissini households use the Caisse, while the majority of transactions involve local businesses. She says there are also a lot of new businesses in the community using the bank.

When Petawabano started as a teller, sometimes people would get upset about small problems they didn't understand, such as their bank statement. "You have to be patient," she said. "You never know when you're going to meet an angry person."

Thinking about her experiences, Peggy Petawabano has a message for her community: "It's difficult, but you have to have self-confidence."



Traffic disrupted between Matagami and the Eastmain-1 jobsite

Over a 45-day period, Blais et Langlois will be transporting pieces of steel armouring from Matagami to the Eastmain-1 jobsite. This will considerably disrupt traffic from January 17, 2005 to March 7, 2005. About fifteen trips are planned, which could each take up to three days to complete. Each trip will be divided into two parts: from Matagami to Kilometre 274 (inter-section with the Route du Nord) and, the following day, from Kilometre 407 to the Eastmain-1 jobsite. On the James Bay highway, the convoy will stop every 30 minutes, and/or as needed, to allow traffic through. However, from the Route du Nord to the Eastmain-1 jobsite, vehicles will not be able to pass the convoy. Hydro-Québec Security will be making sure that everything goes smoothly, several kilometres ahead of the convoy.



A toll-free line is available to find

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Credit Tips

By Claire MacKinnon

- Your credit rating is a score that tells a bank whether they should lend you money or not. Your score is based on your history of bill and loan payments, bank transactions, and any other financial transactions.
- Find out about your credit rating before you apply for a loan or credit card. Every time you are refused for a loan or credit card, it is recorded as part of your credit score. Instead, contact Equifax and get them to give you your credit score beforehand. It'll set you back about \$20, but is worth it if it means you get the loan. You can call 1-800-685-5000 or visit their online site at www.equifax.com, for more information.

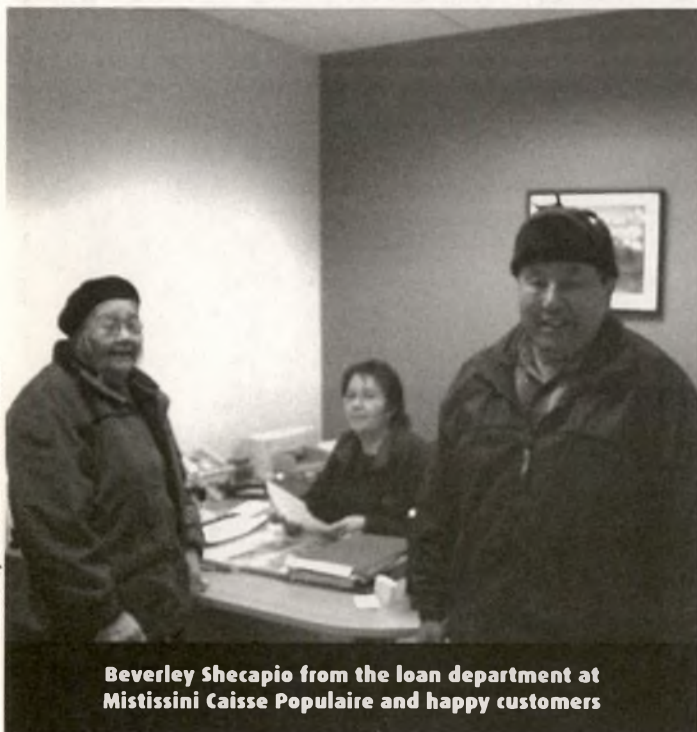


Photo by M. Paul-Yvon Pichette

**Beverley Shecapio from the loan department at
Mistissini Caisse Populaire and happy customers**

- Start building your credit while you are young. Get a credit card with the minimum credit allowed, and co-sign the agreement with a parent or guardian. Don't go crazy with your card, however. Make sure you are able to pay for what you buy! Otherwise, you run the risk of permanently damaging your credit rating.
- Pay off your credit card every month to avoid interest charges. Credit card companies charge approximately 18.9% interest, annually! For example, if you charged \$100 on your card, you would end up paying \$118.90 for the item a year later. Even if you paid off \$75 on your card, you would still be paying the interest on the \$100, until you paid off the whole \$100.
- If you really can't control your spending, try freezing your credit card in a block of ice. It'll give you a good 24 hours to decide if you really need those new clothes or X-Box, or that new piece of sports equipment.

Banking Tips

By Claire MacKinnon

- Make sure you know what you are paying for with your service charges. A bank may charge you a flat rate each month for a limited number of transactions, but can charge you extra for each additional withdrawal! For example, if you paid an additional \$4 per month, it would add up to an extra \$48 a year.
- How to check your service charges: Look at the monthly statement sent to you by the bank, or look in the small bank book that the teller updates each time you make a transaction. After each record, any extra charges should be written underneath.
- Some banks will lift your monthly service charge, if you maintain a minimum balance of \$1,000 in your account, for the whole month.
- Be careful with private Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs), like the ones in gas stations or restaurants that are not associated with a bank. They will charge you extra service charges of up to \$2.50, in addition to what your bank already charges you.
- If you have trouble saving money, you can ask the bank to automatically transfer a set amount into your savings account, on the same day each month. Setting aside \$25 per month can be as easy as deciding not to buy one soda pop each day and putting the money in the bank.



Photo by Steve Bonspiel

Using an Automatic Teller Machine

- Try saving money with a partner: open an account that needs two signatures for any transaction. It helps to have another person supporting you when temptation strikes.



Short Story Contest

Restoring Cree Fisheries was one of the principal mandates of the Eeyou Nameess Corporation. Since September 2004, following the execution of the Niskamoon Agreement between the Crees and Hydro-Québec, Niskamoon Corporation is, from now on, assuming the mandate of restoring Cree fisheries. In spring 2004, the Short Story Contest was arranged and Niskamoon Corporation is proud to now publish the stories by Jonathan Hester, winner of the 3rd Place prize (12-18 age category) and Samuel Cox, 3rd Place (18 and up category). Congratulations Jonathan and Samuel!



Photo: Nation Archives

Eeyou Nameess Story · (Ages 18 and up) · Samuel Cox



This story was told to me by my own father and goes back to the time when he was just fresh out of residential school. He is now 82 years old and this event occurred when he was 15, and takes us all the way back to 1936. He was at a stage where he was just learning how to hunt, trap and fish. It is about hardship, willingness to survive and a fish story all rolled into one.

The story starts somewhere

south of where La Grande and Kanaapscow rivers used to meet, but is now underwater due to the flooding. He recalls it was either the month of February or March when this all started. At that time he was living with his father, mother, brother and a sister. Other family members were in another part of their traditional hunting territory. They had run out of basic necessities such as tea, flour, lard and sugar. There

was no game to be found where they had settled for the winter months. Sometimes they had an occasional rabbit or two, if by chance they caught some. He does not recall why his father had made the decision for them to make camp there at that location. He says they were doing just fine at their previous campsite further to the west, as whitefish were easily caught at their spawning grounds that fall.



Short Story Contest

Finally game became so scarce that they faced the possibility of starvation if they continued to stay where they were. After consulting his mother first, he made the decision to move camp and find a better location for them to hunt for food. So they dismantled their winter campsite, and headed west for a better chance at survival. They hauled their belongings on handmade toboggans, and snow-shoed for the next two days making and breaking camp as they went.

There was very little to eat as they went, and he recalls the group stopping to rest and make a fire beside a stream which they had come to. He cannot remember if they had anything to eat at their stopover. He was the one leading and breaking trail as they went along. He says he had a place in mind to make camp, but before they got there, his sister who had been behind, suddenly called out to him and said "I am afraid our father has fallen down by the wayside and is unable to walk any further." This

was due to hunger resulting in his lack of strength and energy to go on.

His sister said, "It is best that you go back and take a toboggan with you, and haul him on it." Their mother was already hauling his younger brother Abraham as he was



Photo: Nation Archives

still too young to walk on snowshoes by himself. He instructed his sister to make haste and make camp before nightfall while he went back to get their father. By the time he returned, camp was just about set up.

Next day he remembers walking through the nearby woods trying to find game, and possibly set a steel trap for a rabbit, as snare wire was still not available at that time. He managed to get two spruce grouse that day, and this was to be their meal for the day. Their mother Susan cooked the two birds, but he had asked her to save the wings as he told her that he and her sister would try fishing through the ice on the nearby lake. Following day, he says he caught a rabbit in his trap, and left it with his parents before setting off to go fishing. They

pounded and smashed the wings to make them soft as they were to serve as bait for their hooks.

When they got to their destination, he says he first made a hole through the ice for his sister Nettie. He had not finished making one for himself when his sister shouted out to him "Look at the size of the fish I just caught". It was a big pike, and before long they had caught about half a dozen fish. They decided to make a fire on the shore, and cook half of the big fish she had caught. They finished their much needed meal by drinking the fish broth as well. He said they went home early in the day to take back the fish to their parents waiting at the camp. He remembers that when they arrived, he called to their mother from the outside "Did we get to you in time" meaning they had not starved to death yet. She answered that they were still doing okay.

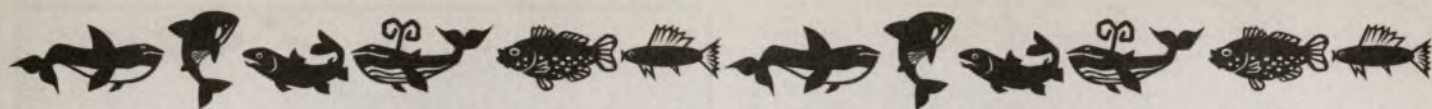
From those fish he says they gathered strength including his father Peter, and from there moved to an even better location where they were able to set up nets under the ice, and catch even more fish. Later on, they finally met up with another group of people in Duncan Lake, where word was sent to Fort George of their ordeal, and supplies were subsequently sent back to them.

He said that even though he knew they were in a bad way, he never gave up hope, or even thought about not making it through. The story my father told me, gives us a good insight as to why eating fish is a nutritious and life-giving source of food. It was probably even more so back then, when you were trying to live off the land.

Submitted by Samuel Cox
Chisasibi, Quebec



Photo: Nation Archives



Short Story Contest

Une journée à la pêche · (Ages 12-18) · Jonathan Hester



Bonjour, je vais vous raconter une journée quand je suis allé à la pêche avec mes amis. C'était l'automne; on est allé aux rapides en canot. On était quatre. C'était une très belle journée pour aller à la pêche.

Avant de partir, je suis allé chez moi pour chercher ma canne à pêche et j'ai apporté du jus et des pommes. On est parti à 4:30 de l'après-midi. Bertie n'arrêtait pas de nous arroser. Son grand frère Waldo s'est fâché. Bertie a tout de suite arrêté !

Le trajet s'est bien passé : il ventait juste un peu, les vagues avait deux pieds. Il y avait Waldo, Bertie, Cameron et moi. Le trajet en canot a duré environ 10 minutes. J'étais très content d'aller pêcher. Bertie était assis à côté de moi. Il faisait 6°C.



Photo: Nation Archives

J'ai pêché beaucoup de poissons : 16 au total. C'était moi qui en avais le plus. J'avais aussi le plus gros. Il mesurait environ 16 pouces. Cameron n'avait pas beaucoup d'expérience alors je lui ai dit que les poissons sont surtout dans le fond de l'eau et je lui ai donné un de mes hameçons. Bertie, lui, commençait à se fâcher parce que ses hameçons restaient toujours pris dans le fond de l'eau ! Il m'a dit : 'Jonathan, veux-tu me prêter deux hameçons ?'

Quand on est revenu à Waskaganish, il faisait noir. Il était sept heures du soir. Waldo ne savait pas où aller parce qu'il faisait très noir. Cameron commençait à avoir peur. Waldo m'a dit d'aller en avant du bateau pour voir s'il n'y avait pas de roches.

Pour faire cuire le poisson, moi

je connais trois façons mais c'est le poisson fumé que je préfère. On doit le suspendre au-dessus d'un feu de bois. Avant de le suspendre, on lui enlève les écailles puis on l'ouvre, on le vide et on le cuit. C'est délicieux avec des bleuets et de la banique. Il y a même eu un grand chef-cuisinier qui est allé à Smokey Hill filmer nos traditions crier avec Russell Diamond et son père, Jack Diamond.

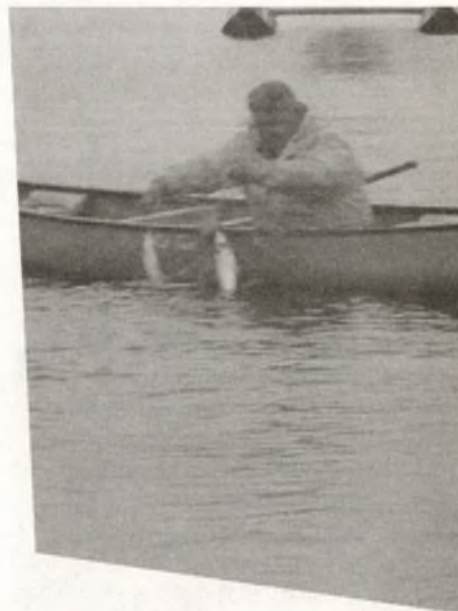


Photo: Nation Archives

J'aimerais retourner à la pêche l'automne prochain parce que mon grand-père m'a dit que la pêche est meilleure à l'automne, car, c'est à ce moment que l'on peut en avoir plus. J'aimerais ça aussi retourner à la pêche avec Waldo parce qu'on ne s'ennuie jamais : on a tout le temps des choses à se raconter.



Photo: Nation Archives

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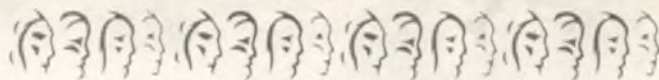
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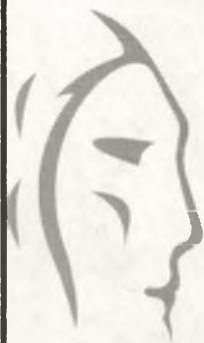
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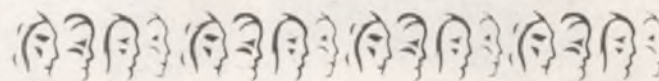
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Golden Valley Mines Ltd. is pleased to announce to the People of Eeyou Istchee that we have recently acquired a mineral exploration land position in the James Bay area, east of the Opinaca reservoir, in the vicinity of Gladman Lake.

We are planning an airborne geophysics exploration program commencing in February 2005. If results warrant, a follow up ground exploration program may be implemented. Persons wishing additional information about the company and the project or wishing to submit exploration properties can contact Mr Glenn J Mullan or Mr Michael Rosatelli at our Val d'Or office, 819 824 1030.

Golden Valley Mines Ltd. operates many mineral exploration projects and properties in various areas of the Abitibi Greenstone Belt in Quebec and Ontario, and the Raglan area of Nunavik,

Glenn J. Mullan, President



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Hunting Regulations in Eeyou Istchee: What do you think?

by Norman Fireman



Luke MacLeod with two moose shot off-road in daylight hours with a gun he had just loaded

The question we pose for this issue concerns gun regulations or hunting restrictions. Some of the regulations from section 57 of the Conservation Act state that no one is to leave a cartridge in the chamber or charger. No one is to shoot a firearm from a vehicle, including a snowmobile. No one is allowed to hunt at night-time from 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise. And Crees are not allowed to give, sell, or trade wild meat to non-beneficiaries. Just to name a few.

Chiasisbi's Eddy Pachano: Gun regulations do not correspond with the Cree traditional ways of life. My son was fined because his shells were in the charger. When he received his fine, I told his lawyer that I'll take responsibility for this. I taught him this because this is the way I learned from my parents and it has always worked for me. I'm going to challenge this. I want to educate the bureaucrats who make these laws for us. They write laws about the places they've never been or people they've never been with. I know this will cost me. But I will get support from the people. White ways have never worked for us. That's why I want to educate and challenge these bureaucrats to make just a few minor changes.

Chisasibi resident Richard Pepabino: I really don't mind some of the regulations if it's for safety purposes for everybody. But I have always been concerned how White hunters behave when hunting season is open. I've seen caribou shot right in the middle of the

road with pools of blood on the road. I don't think this is allowed. Crees have always hunted caribou off the highways. I've also seen ptarmigan with just the breast area taken and the rest left behind. I saw how they just cut up the caribou, take what they need and the rest left on the snow. Those who make these regulations are not doing a good job in following them either.

Daniel Moses of Eastmain: I think the gun regulations are good. It's also not a good idea to shoot from vehicles either or keep shells in guns while you're in the vehicle because you never know when some young kid can get a hold of the gun and play with it and that can cause serious accidents. This has been known to happen. About hunting at night, I only heard of hunting beaver early in the evenings but not for moose or caribou. Crees have never needed to hunt at night.

Waskaganish resident Alan McLeod: I haven't heard anyone complaining so

far with the gun or hunting regulations around here yet or I don't know about it. Myself I follow all the regulations. I haven't had any problems yet. I used to go up to LG-3 for caribou. One time a French guy was shooting in our direction, I was really shaken up. I heard also a guy from Chisasibi who has his cabin along the road, a bullet landed right on his door. It's dangerous out there around this time. There should be stricter laws for White hunters.

Nemaska talleyman Freddy Jolly: I think the gun regulations were written so the government can sneak into Cree territory just to harass the Crees. They'll never stop. They always find a way to step all over us. Another thing I want to mention is when I hear Crees messing around with guns. That is not the Cree way. It is time for the police forces in Eeyou Istchee to start programs for young people to teach them the proper use of guns and why we use guns. It is only for hunting purposes and parents can help too.

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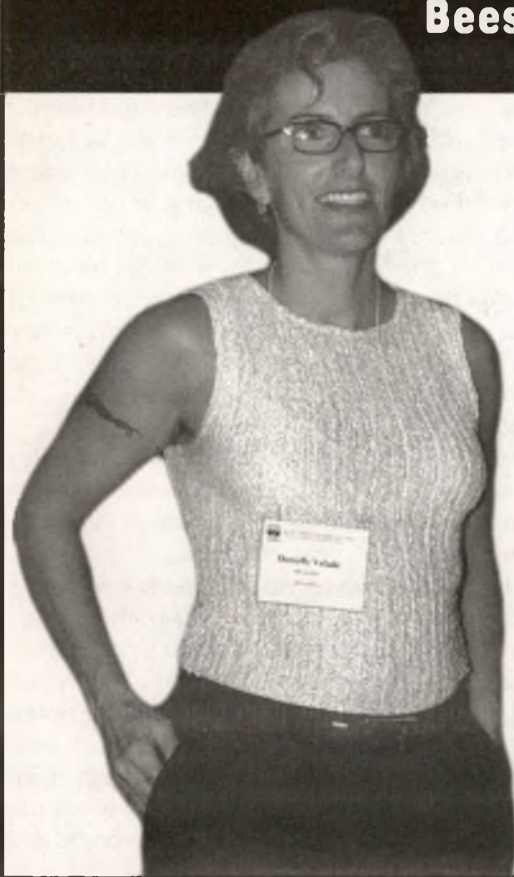
www.canadianroyalties.com Glenn J. Mullan, Chairman

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We are planning an airborne geophysics exploration program commencing in February 2005. If results warrant, a follow up ground exploration program may be implemented.

Canadian Royalties is a majority owner in the Raglan South Trend Nickel Project in Nunavik and has a diversified portfolio of over 200 properties and property interests, including 100% owned projects, options, and royalties. Persons wishing additional information about the company and the project or wishing to submit exploration properties can contact Mr. Glenn J Mullan or Mr. Langis Plante at our Val d'or office .

Beesum Communications salutes a one-of-a-kind By Nation and Beesum Staff



It was a collective tear in our eyes and a wave goodbye that marked the end of Danielle Valade's tenure with Beesum Communications and The Nation.

After 4 years and many beautiful photographs, this ever-cheerful, multi-talented wonder set out on another one of life's paths.

Her travels will bring her halfway across Canada before heading down through the U.S. on her way to what will be her home for the next four months (or maybe more) in Baja, Mexico.

We would like to take this opportunity to say good luck Danielle and wish her all the best in the future!

We will greatly miss her warmth, humour and of course her dogs Tapper and Playa, too!

Mianscum says the reason that teachers are not asked to watch kids after school is for budgetary reasons. In order to avoid higher wages, dues and payroll expenses for educators classified as teachers, a little financial sleight of hand is needed. Thus the Education Ministry will transfer funds to the CSB, which in turn will hand it over to the CRA in order to dole the money out under their Child Care and Family Services Program, thus avoiding costly teaching certification for day care workers.

The program will cost \$1.6 million annually. The cost to each parent will be \$7 a day.

Since the project is in the early stages, Mianscum could only guess how many students would sign up for the program. He figured 200 to 230 children would be enrolled. He also could not say when each community would implement the program.

"It's a program that will enhance the success of these children as they go onto secondary classes," he said. "It'll give them the edge to be successful in their studies. The educators are not just going to be looking after them, they're going to be working on their assignments with them and continue with lessons the students have received from their teachers. They're also there to help them if they fall behind."

Proposed activities include floor hockey, basketball, board games and outdoor activities.

Possible Delays on the James Bay Highway

The Society for the Development of James Bay (SDBJ), who administers the James Bay highway, is warning

highway users that the transportation of over-size steel armouring parts could slow down traffic in places until March 7 between kilometre 0 and 274. The transportation of the first shipment was successfully completed on January 19.

To obtain more detailed information on when traffic will be affected by the transport of the steel armouring, call 1-888-676-INFO (4636). This is a toll-free number for the users of the James Bay highway, made available by the Energy Society of James Bay (SEBJ). SEBJ uses the Eastmain-1 site, where the steel armouring is being transported.

Murder trial of minor postponed

A 17-year-old Cree is being held in a Val d'Or youth detention centre after an incident that ended in murder New Year's Day.

Crown Prosecutor Marie Claude Belanger was tight-lipped. "I can't say anything about the case except that it's a youth who is being held in Val d'Or after being charged with first degree murder," she said.

The accused, who cannot be identified due to his age, is to appear in court on February 2.

Clarification:

The *Nation* would like to clarify a brief that appeared in the last issue.

Mistissini resident Mathew Swallow, the suspect charged with the gun wielding offense, is 21 years old.

A call to our office for clarification as to which of the three Mathew Swallows it might be has prompted us to print the man's age.

We regret any confusion this might have caused.

Mistissini 18th Annual Senior Hockey and Broomball Tournament

Class A – Hockey

Champions

Mistissini Trappers 3

Finalists

Waskaganish Juniors 2

Overtime Goal: Ernie Trapper

Individual Awards

M.V.P.: Ernie Trapper of the Mistissini Trappers

Best Goalie: Peterson Brien of the Mistissini Falcons

Top Scorer: Charly Wash of the Chisasibi Hunters

Class B – Hockey

Champions

Nemaska Axe-Men 7

Finalists

Waswanipi 3

Individual Awards

M.V.P.: Silas Blackned of the Nemaska Axe-Men

Best Goalie: Jean Paul Wapachee of the Nemaska Axe-Men

Top Scorer: Dale Hughboy of the Wemindji Ice Dawgs

Fellowship Hockey 35+

Champions

Mistissini Ice Wolves 4

Finalists

Mistissini Rusty Blades 3

Individual Awards

M.V.P.: Matthew Shecapio of the Mistissini Ice Wolves

Best Goalie: Smally Brien of the Mistissini Rusty Blades

Top Scorer: Norman Blacksmith of the Mistissini Rusty Blades

Broomball Finals – Overtime Shootout

Champions

Waskaganish Wildcats 2

Finalists

Chisasibi Goh 1

Individual Awards

M.V.P.: Suzanne Hester of the Waskaganish Wildcats

Best Goalie: Tina Stewart of the Chisasibi Goh

Top Scorer: Sharon Blackned of the Nemaska Capitals



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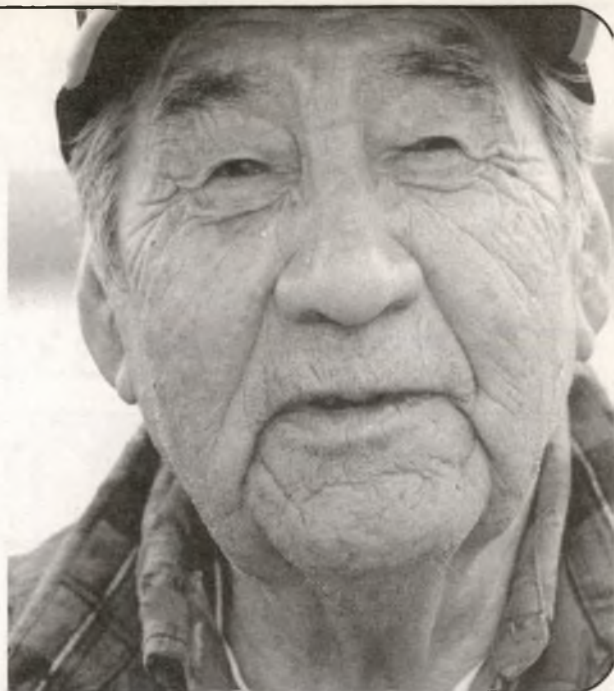
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Resolution Pictures is looking for actors for the second season of Dab-Iiyuu. Dab Iiyuu is a show that visits Elders in their traditional activities and is featured on APTN. We need actors for the re-creations of the Elders stories. We will be shooting the re-creations between **Late March to Late May**.

All ages both male and Female are welcome.
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contact: 514 272 8241 • email: iyiyuu@mail.com



Public Notice

Ministère de l'Environnement

Natural Heritage Conservation Act
(R.S.Q., c. C-61.01)

Amendment of the plan of the proposed Waskaganish biodiversity reserve and of its conservation plan

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with section 31 of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (R.S.Q., c. C-61.01),

(1) that the Minister of the Environment has, with the approval of the Government, amended the plan of the proposed Waskaganish biodiversity reserve and its conservation plan to exclude a portion of land previously included in the proposed biodiversity reserve, as it appears in Order in Council 1069-2004 dated November 16 2004, the amended plans, attached as a Schedule to that Order in Council, to come into force on the date of their publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*;

(2) that the amendments to the plans, as provided for in section 31 of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, do not affect the period of time for which the land has been set aside, a period of four years which began on July 14 2004, and do not affect the permanent protection status envisaged for the reserve, indicated in the previously published notice; and

(3) that a copy of the amended plan of the proposed Waskaganish biodiversity reserve and of its conservation plan may be obtained on payment of a fee by contacting Léopold Gaudreau, Direction du patrimoine écologique et du développement durable, Ministère de l'Environnement, 675, boulevard René-Lévesque Est, 4^e étage, boîte 21, Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7; telephone: (418) 521-3907, extension 4783; fax: (418) 646 6169; e-mail: leopold.gaudreau@menv.gouv.qc.ca.

Madeleine Paulin
Deputy Minister

Québec 

Avis public

Ministère de l'Environnement

Loi sur la conservation du patrimoine naturel
(L.R.Q., c. C-61.01)

Modification du plan de la réserve de biodiversité projetée de Waskaganish et de son plan de conservation

Avis est donné par les présentes, conformément à l'article 31 et de la Loi sur la conservation du patrimoine naturel (L.R.Q., c. C-61.01) :

1° que le ministre de l'Environnement, avec l'approbation du gouvernement, a modifié le plan de la réserve de biodiversité projetée de Waskaganish, ainsi que son plan de conservation, pour exclure une partie du territoire précédemment compris dans celle-ci, tel qu'il appert au décret numéro 1069-2004 du 16 novembre 2004, les plans modifiés prenant effet à la date de leur publication, en annexe de ce décret, à la *Gazette officielle du Québec* ;

2° que les modifications apportées aux plans, comme le prévoit l'article 31 de la Loi sur la conservation du patrimoine naturel, n'ont pas pour effet d'interrompre la durée de la mise en réserve de ce territoire, laquelle a débuté, pour une durée de 4 ans, le 14 juillet 2004, et qu'elles n'affectent pas non plus le statut permanent de protection envisagé pour cette réserve indiqué dans l'avis précédemment publié ;

3° qu'une copie du plan de la réserve de biodiversité projetée de Waskaganish et de son plan de conservation modifiés peut être obtenue sur paiement des frais, en s'adressant à M. Léopold Gaudreau, Direction du patrimoine écologique et du développement durable, ministère de l'Environnement, 675, boulevard René-Lévesque Est, 4^e étage, boîte 21, Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7, au numéro de téléphone (418) 521-3907, poste 4783, par télécopieur au numéro (418) 646-6169 ou par courrier électronique à leopold.gaudreau@menv.gouv.qc.ca.

La sous-ministre,
MADELINE PAULIN

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Lost Dad

Dear Daddy,

It has been 2 months and 5 days since the last time I saw you. I remember the last time you said that you "will be back soon."

Oh Daddy, you promised you'd be home for Christmas and New Year, but Daddy we waited for you all day and all night, you never came. My heart is so heavy, I cried Daddy. I mean we cried. We miss you so much. I wish you were here with us Daddy. Life without you is not the same. Our home is quiet, lonely, we missed your footsteps in the hallway, your voice, your jokes. Oh Daddy we really really miss everything about you.

Daddy, you know Mommy cries every night, I can hear her. I always see her standing by the window waiting for you Daddy, she prays for you to come home safe. I know Daddy that Mommy's heart is heavy and sad, if only Daddy you were here, everything would be all right. It would make us happy, I mean really really happy.

Mommy I love you too, it really hurts me to see you cry. I wish I could do something to make you happy. I pray every day for Daddy to come home. Oh Daddy find your way home, we need you so much. I really miss telling you what we did at school.

Oh Daddy I love you, please come home, wherever you are. I don't know what to do anymore. Hold me tight and never let me go Daddy. I am scared Daddy, I will do everything to take care of Mommy and my little sister. Oh yeah Daddy Naya cries, too. Daddy I don't understand why this happened. Why Daddy why? Even Mommy does not have the answers. Everybody is praying for you Daddy.

What can I do Daddy, to find the answer? What can I say?

Can someone or somebody please tell me what to do? I need friends to help me ease my pain.

Oh I almost forgot Daddy I need new glasses, but Mom just told me that she can't afford them. They're all scratched up, I can hardly see with them. Daddy I need you.

**Always in my heart,
Shahone Shecapio**

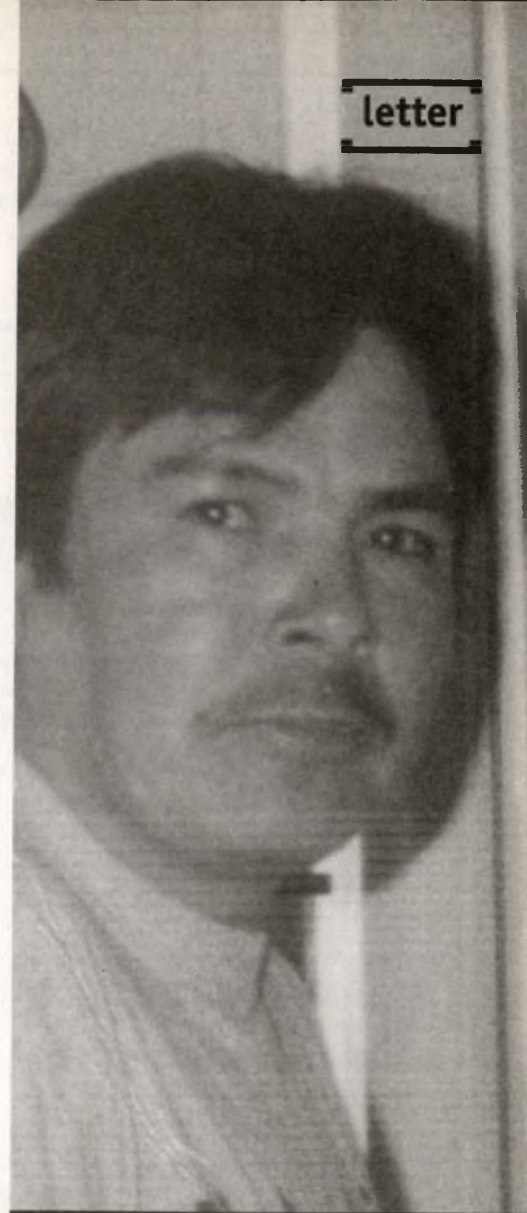
My dearest true Love Andrew,

I love you so much and I really miss you a lot. Oh Andrew what can I say! I just don't have the words to tell you how I feel; I just don't know what to say. I just don't know where you are. I don't know anymore. I'm scared baby I am. What can I do to ease this pain that I carry everyday? How can this happen to me, the girls?

Oh Andrew I love you. I miss you next to my bed. Our bedroom is so empty; it is not the same anymore. Even our home is quiet and lonely. I miss your strong arms around me, I miss your hugs and kisses, miss everything about you. Oh Andrew if I only knew you would be gone missing I would have never let you go. I would hold on to you! How can this be?

Every night I cry, standing by the window waiting for you to come home. I'd really be happy once again, but there are rumours that hurt a lot and I don't know what to think anymore. Andrew all I want to know is: are you still alive? If only you'd call I would be happy. Please baby, come home wherever you are. We need you so much and I am still waiting for you.

Oh Andrew I need a shoulder to cry on, someone to talk to but I don't know who. There are times that I feel I just can't go on, it's not worth it



**Andrew Shecapio who was
last seen Nov 25, 2004**

Andrew. You are my best friend but where did you go? I don't know anymore. My life is so messed up, Andrew what can I do? It is not the same without you! Take me, take us, with you.

Please Andrew come home. I need you always. I love you, call us.

**Your wife,
Elizabeth Bosum
Val d'Or
Please pray for us.**

Anyone with information concerning Andrew Shecapio should contact police or call (819) 921-3918.



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Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each issue of *the Nation* will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.



Doda's Delicious Banana Bread

1 cup	uncooked oats	250ml
1/2 cup	fat-free milk	125ml
1 cup	very ripe bananas, mashed (approximately 3 medium bananas)	250ml
4 (approx. 1/2 cup)	egg whites, lightly beaten	125ml
1/2 cup	vegetable oil	125ml
2 cups	all purpose flour	500ml
1/4 cup	granulated sugar	50ml
2 tsp	baking powder	10ml
1 tsp	ground cinnamon	5 ml
1/2 tsp	baking soda	2ml
1/2 tsp	salt (optional)	2ml
1/2 tsp	ground nutmeg	2ml
	vegetable cooking spray	

Pre-heat your oven to 350° F. Lightly spray a 9 x 5-inch loaf pan with your cooking spray.

In a medium-sized bowl, combine your oats and milk, mixing well. Let this mixture stand for 10 minutes, then stir in your bananas, egg whites, and vegetable oil until well blended.

In a large bowl, combine your flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, baking soda, salt (optional) and nutmeg, mixing well. Add the oat mixture to these combined dry ingredients all at once and stir only until dry ingredients are moistened. Be careful not to overmix!

Pour the batter into your loaf pan and bake for 55 to 65 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the centre of the loaf comes out clean. Cool the loaf, still in the pan, on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Remove it from the pan and let it cool completely. Store the loaf tightly wrapped. Enjoy!

1 loaf = 16 servings.

NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION PER SERVING (WITHOUT USING OPTIONAL SALT):

Calories: 70, Total fat: 8g, Saturated fat: 1g, Cholesterol: 0g,
Sodium: 110mg, Dietary fibre: 1g, Protein: 4g,
Total carbohydrates: 23g, Total sugars: 7g



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Hutchins Grant & Associés is pleased to announce that Monique Caron has joined the firm.

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The Last Line

By Ndiamon



I was already at work, in search of material, a subject, some serious insider info and in need of a cool, cheap drink when I bumped into a Cree politician at a Native bar late at night in downtown Montreal. It's the kind of bar where the two-piece band will dedicate a song like Folsom Prison Blues to those "who just got out of jail."

I had heard from a reliable source that former national chief, Dr. Matthew Coon Come, is bored and is dropping out of Bible college... and seriously eyeing the office of Cree Grand Chief. Speculation that this might just happen has been going around ever since Phil Fontaine gave Coon Come a national ass whuppin. Don't you just love Native politics?

Mr. X denied any knowledge of whether Mr. Coon Come was actually running for Grand Chief against Dr. Moses this coming fall. I prodded and successfully had him confess that if that were the case, he would vote for Moses.

Why? I asked dumbfounded. A career politico, he ducked and weaved for an instant until I reminded him it was off the record. "Moses," he said. "He's more intelligent. Have you ever seen Coon Come being asked an impromptu question by reporters without the help of consultants? He fumbles."

I was astonished. I'd always figured Coon Come to be quicker, more secure, confident and savvy politically than the seemingly uncouth and unsophisticated Moses. Here was this guy, a Cree player for many years, in the know, well liked and trusted by the old boys' network, telling me that Coon Come was a mere Muppet. That he was only spouting phrases and lines supplied by the very Grand... Council's hired guns. I, of course, hid

the shock and awe I felt and changed the subject even as I nodded in agreement. The waitress came by our table for last call. I hesitated, hoping he'd offer to pay for a round. But he ordered a beer only for himself. All the respect he'd earned as a result of our little exchange went poof!

Montreal, my town, reeks of Cree politicians. Walk down St. Catherine Street and you'll know they are there, blocks ahead of you, by spotting the bulge in the back pocket. Every other meeting involving important and not-so-important Cree issues convenes

But he ordered a beer only for himself. All the respect he'd earned as a result of our little exchange went poof!

here. Lowly hotel staff are on a chummy first-name basis with many a Cree player. Downtown restaurants depend and survive on Cree appetites. Seedy looking characters deliver mysterious packages late at night to expensive hotel suites. Bored yet porn-worthy barmaids perk up and smile widely when they espy a powerful, moneyed and over-tipping Cree regular strutting into their bar.

"Mr. This. Mr. That. Chief So and So! It's soooooo good to see you again. Will it be the usual then? And how, pray tell, are the wife and kids in James Bay? They are in James Bay, right?"

Meanwhile, at a lesser, grungier venue down the street, a chief from

the Attikamek or the Algonquin nation stands in line at the coat check mentally calculating his pittance of a per diem, tip on a pitcher of beer and the inevitable lonely cab ride to some cheap motel. Unnoticed, forgotten and ignored by the big-haired blonde he's entrusted his jacket with. "And you are? Oh right. That'll be \$20, sir."

"Maudite Crisse!" he mutters as he nurses his cheap warm beer.

The Cree Nation is both blessed, and cursed, with colorful, charismatic and of course allegedly corrupt politicians aplenty. It comes with the territory. Millions in the accounts and millions more practically guaranteed by the Crown and Quebec's equivalent. Rare is the Cree who won't succumb to power's temptations and pleasures. It might be a scientific fact. There should be a study done.

Anyway, the fact that the incorruptible Coon Come flubs his lines when questioned by reporters won't matter to the Cree electorate. They don't care for things like that. What matters to them is which candidate looks good, sounds great on the radio and has a sterling reputation. Cree journalists, with few exceptions, don't always ask the tough questions anyway.

He would be a tough challenger for Moses, who probably lies awake at night hoping and praying that Coon Come earns his divinity doctorate and becomes a preacher in Mistissini instead. Saving souls instead of saving per diems. Come to think of it, he probably hopes and prays that Mukash and Gull also enter the fray, thereby splitting the vote and giving him a bigger chance of winning. I foresee a vicious four-way battle this fall. Ass whuppings galore for all of us to enjoy. Let the games begin.

And that, until the next time, is the last line.

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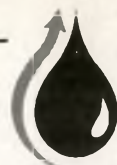
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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Weathering the Storm

by Xavier Kataquapit

A winter storm, or *Kashtin* in Cree, is blowing through town and snow is continually falling and covering up the already frozen landscape in a layer of fresh white powder. Gusts of wind flare up every now and again. These powerful bursts flow around the houses and obstacles in our yard, creating snowdrifts here and there.

I am nine years of age and I am wandering around my neighbourhood with my friends in the midst of this blizzard. Strangely enough, the weather is never extremely cold during a winter storm. The temperature hovers around minus 20, which is considered mild on the coast of the James Bay in winter.

We feel a deep urge to stay out in the storm. It is exciting and exhilarating. We are bundled in warm parkas and snow pants with fur-lined hats and traditional hand-crafted moose hide mitts. This extreme weather demands that we tie up our hoods to cover up our heads. The fur lining on our hoods protects us. Still, the storm is strong enough to whip large white flakes onto our faces. Behind our fur-lined hoods the skin on our cheeks is damp from the melting snow. We peer out from these hoods as if looking through tunnels. We shout at each other over the noise of the howling wind. Everything is a little muffled inside our hoods and under toques and scarves. Most of the time we stay quiet and are content to be together in the midst of this sea of blinding white bluster.

It is a grey day and a dim light is defused through the layers of clouds. We can only see a few houses in our neighbourhood and it feels as if our small community has shrunk in the fury. The gusting snow and grey light makes it seem as if we are living in a featureless world. There is no horizon but rather a continuous sea of greyish white light on the ground and above our heads. At times when the gusts are at their strongest, everything disappears behind blowing walls of flying snow. We are mesmerized by the dancing and swirling wisps of white flakes that look like speedy pale serpents or constant waves of water that rush over hard, packed snow.

The storm is enough to entertain us at first, but later on we decide to play a game of hockey. A winter storm can never deter a game of hockey in the north. It just makes it a more interesting challenge.

We are not the only ones with a love for hockey. Several of our cousins and friends are already at the rink. They are occupying only the quarter of the ice surface that has been shovelled. The rest of the rink is covered in so much snow we wonder if it will ever be cleared. We lace up our skates while sitting comfortably on the fresh snowdrifts. They are

kind of like beanbag chairs. Then we enter into a game with our friends and chase the frozen hard rubber puck around the rink.

The snow continues to blow but we soon forget the storm as we skate in a sort of dance that seems choreographed to fit in with the raging blizzard. We spin, jump and glide on our stage of frozen ice and in the midst of curtains of billowing snow.

The storm soon wins over and it is almost impossible to keep our little patch of ice clear of snow. The light is growing dimmer and we are tiring. It is time to head home.

I can see our house in the blue light that comes with the evening. My home looks inviting as I make my way through the bluster and the increasing cold. In between the gusts, I can see the warm glow of the kitchen window. I pick up my pace as I get closer to our wooden house. I know that mom has something prepared to eat and hot tea to go with it. It's time to close the door on the storm.

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CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHS - 100

With love from Mommy & Daddy. On January 27 2001 Brookly Amber W. Bosum was born I wish her a very special Birthday. I hope that you have fun on your day. I miss you very much and I love you very much. Love always, Auntie Olivia from Montreal.

Congratulations to Melanie & John P. Gilpin on the safe arrival of their baby boy, born on December 31, 2004. Once again congratulations! From family and friends in Waskaganish.

BIRTHDAYS - 101

I would like to say a Happy 2nd Birthday to my Godchild Kaylin Kanatewat on January 31st. I hope u have a terrific birthday and many more to come. Love Janice

Wishing a very Happy 8th Birthday to my Neice Alexis Mark, who is attending school in Hull, Qc. Enjoy your day lil' girl, I love you and miss you a lot. From Auntie Priscilla Mark.

On January One 2003. I gave a birth to a beautiful adorable baby girl, she was 8 lbs and 10oz. Her name is Roselyn Grace Whiskeychan. When I first held you in my arms, it was the most happiest time in my life and I had tears in my eyes, having you as my daughter, and I want to thank God for choosing me as I am your mommy. Me & Daddy, you light up our lives, also brought joy and, most of all, happi-

ness. We will always be there for you if you need me or daddy we will be there. **WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH AND ALWAYS WILL. "HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY"**

To our mommy, Barbara D. Hester-Diamond: Mom we would like to say have a happy 29th birthday on January 22. U my heart momma..we love you so so much ..you know!..luv u,xoxox from your kids Christopher Jack Hester & Crystal Annette Hester Diamond. from dad too.

I would like to wish my mother Anna Trapper a happy birthday on January 26, 2005. Mom I am so glad to have you as a mother and a best friend who's always there for me. Just wanted to wish you a Happy Birthday and MANY MANY more to come!!!!..Love always your daughter Twyla H. Coon & Family. We love you so much enjoy your day!

We would like to send our Birthday Greetings to some special people in our lives. On January 5 was Alexander Hester's 10th b-day, same-day as his namesake, and Vanessa Blackned's 3rd b-day. For the month of February, we wish our bros/uncles. happy birthday - Floyd Hester on the 13th and Bert Hester on the 26th. Happy birthday to all u guys. With a lotta luv.. Barbara, Chris & Crystal.

I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to my one and only daughter Kelsie, who will be celebrating her birthday on February 7, 2005. I

wish you all the best on this day and hope you have fun. I know I won't be able to be there but you know that I will be thinking of you. It seems like not too long ago you were just a baby and look at you now ...7 years old!!! How time flies!! I thank God for giving me a little girl to love and cherish. Once again Happy Birthday to my only precious girl and many, many more birthdays to come. I love you with all my heart and I miss you so much. Love always, Mom in Ottawa. P.S. Missing you too Kohl!!! xoxoxoxo

I am sending a birthday wishes to my son Alex, happy 9th birthday, and many more to come, owaa ur getting old my boy! Well have fun, enjoy ur day! And I love you very much. fr: Jeremy and Mom.

To a chubby boy named Jaryath Bobbish (Mr.Bobbish). We would like to wish him a Happy 1st Birthday on January 26. Already 1 yr old ehh... wow time goes by so fast. Take good care of ur son Rach. Fr: Tina and Catherine. p.s Happy Birthday to Wayne too which is on the same day as his son.

I would like to wish a happy 5th birthday to my daughter, Jocelyne Washipabano, on February 21. I love you my girl! And remember mommy will always be there for you. Enjoy your special day. Hugs & kisses from Mom (Catherine).

We would like to say Happy 11th Birthday to Tia Matoush on January

19th, 2005, here in Wemindji...Hey girl have fun on your birthday aight girl....Love always, from: Your auntie S.S. & E.S.....& your daddy, Matthew Matoush from Wemindji.

I would like to wish Happy Birthday to the following people: (Belated B-day) Yvette Longchap on January 9, and (Belated B-day) Jim Chewanish, on January 16, and to my cuz Johanne Tapiatic Happy Birthday, and many more to come.From Christine, Rhonda, Rose, Doreen, Bianca, Dwayne, Angela, James, Suzanne, and Junior xoxoxoxox

I would like to wish Happy Birthday to my little sister Krystelle Dawn Moses on January 26, 2005. Happy 2nd Birthday to my Little Sister'sh. And I hope you have a great time and have a lot of fun cause you deserve it. Don't eat too much of your birthday cake, and don't be so bossy...lol. From your big sister Chantal Joy Moses.

We would like to wish our precious daughter, Krystelle Dawn Moses a Happy 2nd Birthday and may God Bless through the years ahead of you. It's been so fast and you are already turning 2, but at least it's not the terrible 2's. Also we can't believe that we have no more diapers to change anymore and that you are now potty trained. Way to go for our daughter!!!! With our love always, Mommy and Daddy.xoxoxo

To my mom Maria Couchees. Her birthday is on February 22. I hope



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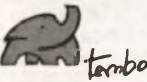
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CLASSIFIEDS

you have a wonderful day on your B-day. I love you very much and I miss you dearly, your daughter Olivia Couchees. See you soon.

My neighbour, my friend, my lover, my husband, our daddy, Stanley Bert Gull, we would like to wish you a happy birthday on Jan. 30, 2005. We want to let you know how much you mean to us, that you are a loving husband, daddy and you are a very caring, special man in our lives. We will always cherish every moment we spent together. Happy birthday to my brother and uncle Lee Jossie Otter on Jan 31, 2005. He will be celebrating his 10th birthday. We will always love you and many more to come to the both of you! fr: Rebecca, Josie-ann, Jacey-leigh, Journey Otter Gull.

We would like to say a Happy Birthday to our sister and sister-in-law, Emily M. Duff, on January 27th, 2005. Hope you will have fun on your birthday and try to have REST on your birthday, and we love you very much & miss you a lot. Once again **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** From: love always, your sister, brother-in-law & your brother, Sheila, Elijah Shashaweskum & Matthew Matoush (From Wemindji) X.o.X.o.X.o

I would like to say Happy Birthday to my Husband Elijah Shashaweskum on January 27th, 2005.

Hope you'll will have fun on your birthday, and many more birthdays to come. I love you with all my heart...X.o.X.o.X.o From: love always, your wife Sheila Shashaweskum.

Happy Birthday to my beautiful baby sister, Claudine Kanatewat-Matous, on February 1st, 2005. Also congratulations on the safe arrival of your baby girl, Mikayla Selena, on January 13, 2005. Wishing you both all the happiness in the world. May God Bless You Both, Protect You and Guide You throughout your lives. Have fun with your little angel. With all my love, hugs & kisses sister/auntie Charlotte.

We would like to wish our daughter, Abigail Whitney Chelsea Maincum a very Happy 10th Birthday on January 22nd in Ouje Bougoumou. I hope you have fun on your day. We wish you all the best in this New Year. Happy Birthday Abby!!!! We love you!!!! Love Mom, Dad, Roxanne, and Hunter xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxox

A belated 1st Birthday to our one and only son, Hunter Albert Dawson Mianscum. He turned 1 on January 4th, 2005. We love you boy!!!! Love Mom, Dad, and your two sisters, Abigail and Roxanne. Xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxox

We would like to send our birthday greetings to my sister, Janie

Pepabano (Chis) on January 26, 2005. Hope you'll have a good day and don't too hard. Again, Happy Birthday, and many, many more.... With love always, from: Jennifer, Robert, and your nephews, Ethan-Robert & Richard (Ojay).

On January 31st, 2005, a friend of mine will be celebrating her birthday, Annette House-Pepabano. Hope you'll enjoy your day and may you be blessed with many more birthdays. From Jennifer P. Dixon. (Ojay)

February is a busy month for our family, cause there are some special people who will be celebrating birthdays during that month. First is my youngest son, Junior (Nathan M.), who will turn 22 years old on the 7th of Feb. (Babs, remember: I love you soo much it hurts, from my heart to my toes). On the 13th, my beautiful one and only sister, Sue, will turn thirty-something (don't worry, I won't let out how old you will be, sis!!) You are not only my sister, but also my friend, who I cherish dearly!! Finally, on the 17th, my first-born grandson, Nakonee, will turn 10 yrs old!! Already 10! Seems like yesterday, you were just a chubby, adorable, little 11 (eleven) pound baby boy. Now you've grown into one handsome boy who I love, unconditionally!!!! Happy Birthday to each one, and remember, Flora loves you all so!!!!

PERSONAL - 300

To my mom Maria Couchees, I miss you very much. Please call me; you have my number. I've been waiting for you to call me! Olivia Couchees.

I want to say a happy new year to our Auntie Jordanna Joy Longchap. We just want to thank you for everything that you do for us. We love you very much, with all our little hearts.



Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN)
Health and Social Services Networking
and Partnership Initiative

Call for Funding Applications 2005 - 2006

The QCGN manages the Health and Social Services Networking and Partnership Initiative (HSSNPI). The HSSNPI funds the development of regional and local health and social service networks across the province. These networks work collaboratively with community organizations and the public health and social service system to:

- Enhance access to health and social services in English, and
- Provide a better array of health and social services to specific English-speaking communities in Quebec

The HSSNPI is currently accepting applications for funding for 2005-2006.

If your organization a) is already funded under the HSSNPI, or if your organization b) has a demonstrated history of involvement in the health and social services area and c) is interested in designing and delivering a results-based, health and social services networking project for your English-speaking community, the HSSNPI may be able to help you.

To receive an information package on the HSSNPI, including program objectives, application guide and form and funding criteria, call toll free **1-888-797-7017** or send your information request to: HSSNPI@rogers.com

Application Deadline

All applications for the funding under the HSSNPI must be received no later than **5 pm, February 28, 2005.**

The HSSNPI receives funding from Health Canada's *Contribution Program to Improve Access to Health Services for Official Language Minority Communities*

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fr: your niece Trudy L. Mianscum, your nephews Liam Mianscum & Nyles Longchap, xoxoxox.

A very special Valentine's message goes out to the one I love very much, and his name is Dan. My love, I just want to thank you for always being there for me, loving me for who I am,

accepting me as your one and only, as you are for me!!! You are the glue that holds me together when I want to fall apart, my encouragement when I want to give up, and for that I will always be grateful!!! You are forever in my heart and soul!! "Happy Valentine's day, Dan!" Love, Flo.



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Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board Office de la sécurité du revenu des chasseurs et piégeurs cri

Notice of Nomination

The Members of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board are happy to announce the nomination of Dr. Serge Larivière as the new Director-general.

Having completed a Ph.D. in biology at the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Larivière has taught at the First Nations University of Canada where he worked with the Cree and Dene Nations of Saskatchewan for 3 years.

An experienced trapper, Dr. Larivière has great knowledge of hunting, trapping and fur animals and occupied, until his nomination at the Board, the position of Director-general at the "Fédération des Trappeurs Gestionnaires du Québec".

Welcome to the Board.

The Members
Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board

Acknowledgement

The Members of the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board would like to heartily thank Ms. Monique Caron, Secretary-general for her dedication and hard work accomplished for the Board since 1982.

Ms. Caron spent over 30 years working with Native communities, including an active participation in the negotiations leading to the signing of James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement, as well as two Complementary Agreements. After 22 years of service for the Board, Ms. Caron has decided to return to legal practice regarding Native affairs in Montréal and therefore resigned from her position as Secretary-general in December 2004.

We wish her good luck with her new career.

The Members
Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board



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James Bay Cree Communications Society
would like to thank the Cree Nation for the generous donations given at local radio stations on January 12, 2005 Regional Bingo. Donation boxes were placed for Tsunami affected countries.

On January 19, 2005 James Bay Cree Communications Society made a cheque to the Canadian Red Cross in the amount of **\$5,579.86**.

The following are the donations collected from each community.

CHISASIBI	\$497.83
EASTMAIN	\$631.99
MISTISSINI	\$255.62
NEMASKA	\$304.67
WASKAGANISH	\$264.75
WEMINDJI	\$755.35
WASWANAPI	\$92.75
OUJE-BOUGAMAU	\$16.97
TOTAL	\$2789.93

As agreed, James Bay Cree Communications Society matched total donations in the amount of **\$2789.93**

We would like to thank everyone who has participated and we will once again have donation boxes at the Next Regional Radio Bingo.

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